



Clark Seif Clark is pleased to bring environmental, health & safety and information about building sciences to thousands of professionals each month. We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

New Green Building Codes in California

This month cities across California began enforcing the new California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen Code). These new building codes were finalized earlier this year by California's Building Standards Commission (CBSC) and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The CALGreen Code states that the purpose of this code is to improve public health, safety and general welfare by enhancing the design and construction of buildings through the use of building concepts by having a reduced negative impact or positive environmental impact and encouraging sustainable construction practices in the following categories:

1. Planning and design
2. Energy efficiency
3. Water efficiency and conservation
4. Material conservation and resource efficiency
5. Environmental quality

Taking it a step further, some California cities, including Burlingame and San Mateo, have decided to implement their option to enforce additional green building measures. In each of these cities they now require a minimum 15% additional energy efficiency requirement in addition to the CALGreen Code.

Clark Seif Clark, a leading provider of IEQ testing services, has extensive experience working with green construction projects. "The CALGreen Code will help California communities with everything from energy efficiency, indoor air quality (IAQ), outdoor air quality, water conservation, waste disposal and recycling efforts."

To learn more about how CSC can help construction projects achieve green results and attain these new building codes please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

Legionnaire's Disease Leads to a \$4.5 Million Verdict

In November a jury in Calhoun County Circuit Court awarded two men \$4.5 million after they were stricken by Legionnaires' disease. The two men from the Jefferson County Road Department were staying at an inn in Oxford, Alabama for several weeks to help cleanup tornado damage in the area. Upon leaving the inn both men became ill and were diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease.

It is believed that both men became ill from using the inn's hot tub. Legionnaires' disease can take from 2 to 14 days before symptoms appear and individuals often initially show flu-like symptoms.

Legionnaires' disease is caused by *Legionella pneumophila* bacteria. The transmission of *Legionella* occurs via aerosols, when mists containing the bacteria are inhaled. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports, "Each year, between 8,000 and 18,000 people are hospitalized with Legionnaires' disease in the U.S. However, many infections are not diagnosed or reported, so this number may be higher." Death can result in 5% to 30% of those infected according to some reports.

Clark Seif Clark, a major provider of indoor air quality (IAQ) and environmental testing services, are experts at testing for the *Legionella* bacteria. *Legionella* is found naturally in the environment. When water systems aren't properly maintained, dangerous concentrations of the bacteria can proliferate. The bacteria grow well in warm water, so buildings with hot tubs, cooling towers, evaporative coolers, fountains or large plumbing systems need to be aware of the dangers. Testing the water can help determine if high concentrations of the *Legionella* bacteria are present. If concentrations are elevated, corrective measures should be initiated.

To learn more about *Legionella* or how CSC can help with IAQ or other environmental concerns please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

About Clark Seif Clark: CSC was established in 1989 to help clients in both the public and private sectors address environmental issues. CSC is a leading provider of these services with multiple offices along the western seaboard and southwest. The company believes in science-based protocols and has a strong background in engineering making them the preferred environmental consultants to healthcare facilities, architects, schools, builders, contractors, developers and real estate professionals.

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Clark Seif Clark
(CSC)

csc@csceng.com
800.807.1118

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